

Minutes of Ad Hoc Fort Ward Park and Museum Stakeholders Advisory Group

November 11, 2010

The Stakeholder Advisory Group (“Group”) convened at the Fort Ward Museum at 7:10 pm on Nov. 11th. Group members, City Staff and guests were as follows:

- Group members: Tom Fulton, Chuck Ziegler, Fran Terrell, Phillip Voorhees, Ripley Forbes, William Schreiner, Bob Moir, Linda Ries
- City Staff: Lance Mallamo (Office of Historic Alexandria), Susan Cumbey (Office of Historic Alexandria, Fort Ward), Laura Durham (Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities), Sharon Annear (Admin. Aide to Councilwoman Hughes), Daniel Imig (City of Alexandria, Office of Environmental Quality, T & ES)
- Guests: Jeff Lane, Alonzo Terrell, Calvin Terrell, J. Glenn Eugster (Seminary Hill Association)

Old Business:

Draft minutes for October 26th meeting were approved.

New business:

The Chair introduced Daniel Imig of the City of Alexandria, T & ES. Daniel was at the Nov. 11th meeting representing Rich Baier who was unable to come. Rich had been previously invited to present information on “Stream Restoration Opportunities in Fort Ward Park” and discuss a possible project submission for a Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) water quality improvement grant. Daniel presented a PowerPoint which showed aerial maps of Fort Ward Park with locations of intermittent and perennial streams. He explained options for potentially moving the stream or segments of the stream from its existing location to a historic location and/or aligning some sections of the stream channel further to the west away from homes on the east boundary of park. Daniel stated that one of the requirements of a Virginia DCR grant is improvement of water quality as part of the project completion and this proposal could meet the criteria. As part of the proposal, the concrete pieces in stream would be removed, and replaced with appropriate rock and vegetation to a more natural state.

The group discussed with Daniel timing for a proposal submission and completion, amount that could be requested, what the city match would be, what was needed before application could be submitted (such as need for a completed archaeological survey and park master plan) and how the group could acknowledge support for such a restoration project. The group was enthusiastic about such a proposal but concerned that a timetable was set up to ensure the right steps were taken in an order that was logical which would encourage the city to move forward on submitting such a proposal. Glenn Eugster also posed a question about timing of these steps and was concerned that the recommendations would not be carried out in a timely fashion.

Phil Voorhees also expressed concern about timing and would like to see the city express intent on moving forward on recommendations. It was decided by the group that Phil Voorhees, Glenn Eugster and Linda Ries would draft a letter of support from the Ad Hoc group for the stream restoration project that could be included with a potential grant submission.

Other business: Lance Mallamo said the archeological survey is currently underway at the park and he anticipated it would be completed in another 3 to 4 weeks, and the report would be completed in another month or so.

New business: reminder of meeting November 23, at 7 pm at Fort Ward Museum. The group adjourned at 8:20 pm. NOTE: Minutes taken by Linda Ries for William Schreiner